



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IV

345 COURTLAND STREET  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30308

August 24, 1979

4SA-EIS

Mr. Ronald L. Ballard  
Chief, Environmental Projects Branch 1  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D. C. 20555

Dear Mr. Ballard:

We have reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the operation of Virgil C. Summer Nuclear Station (Unit #1) in Fairfield County, South Carolina, and offer these comments:

Page 3-11, Section 3.2.6.7, Sewage and Sanitary Waste

Sanitary waste water treatment systems can readily meet the 30 mg/liter monthly average stipulated in the NPDES permit. If necessary, the present system may have to be redesigned to meet this requirement.

Section 4.2, Impacts on Land Use

Appropriate data should be included in the Final Statement describing all wetlands which exist at the plant site and along the transmission lines as well as the impact of the facility on these plant communities. It is indicated that the transmission corridors and the plant site occupy 2,217 acres of original forestland, but there is no indication what portion of these forestlands can be classified as wetlands.

To retain the integrity of streams/wetlands and to maintain water quality we recommend that these sensitive areas be spanned and that a buffer zone of undisturbed vegetation (at least 50 feet wide) be left on the crossing. Tall trees which might interfere with the transmission lines may be removed but other vegetation should be left intact.

Our review of the document indicates that the plant should be capable of operation in accordance with EPA 40 CFR 190, Environmental Radiation Standards for Nuclear Power Operations, and the radionuclide portion of 40 CFR 140, Interim Drinking Water Regulations. However, the reactor accident at the Three Mile Island has focused attention on the need for a thorough re-examination of reactor safety. We believe it is incumbent on the NRC to carefully review its programs and procedures for identifying,

2032 001

COOZ  
EIS  
1/10

7908300641

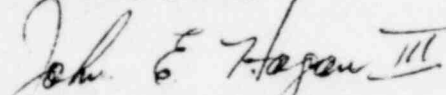
assessing and acting on potential accident sequences as operating experience with reactors increases.

We are particularly concerned about the States' emergency response preparations. Those States having reactors should be urged to develop adequate emergency response preparations. Those plans that have received NRC concurrence should be updated as necessary. Emergency preparedness at every level of responsibility (including licenses compliance with Reg. Guide. 1.101) is imperative to protect the public health and safety in the event of a severe nuclear power plant accident.

We will have additional comments on the in-stream effects of the plant as soon as the 316A/B Studies are completed. On the basis of our review a rating of LO-2 was assigned, i.e., we have no significant reservations, but some additional information is requested.

If we can be of further assistance, feel free to call on us.

Sincerely yours,



John E. Hagan, III  
Chief, EIS Branch

2032 002